



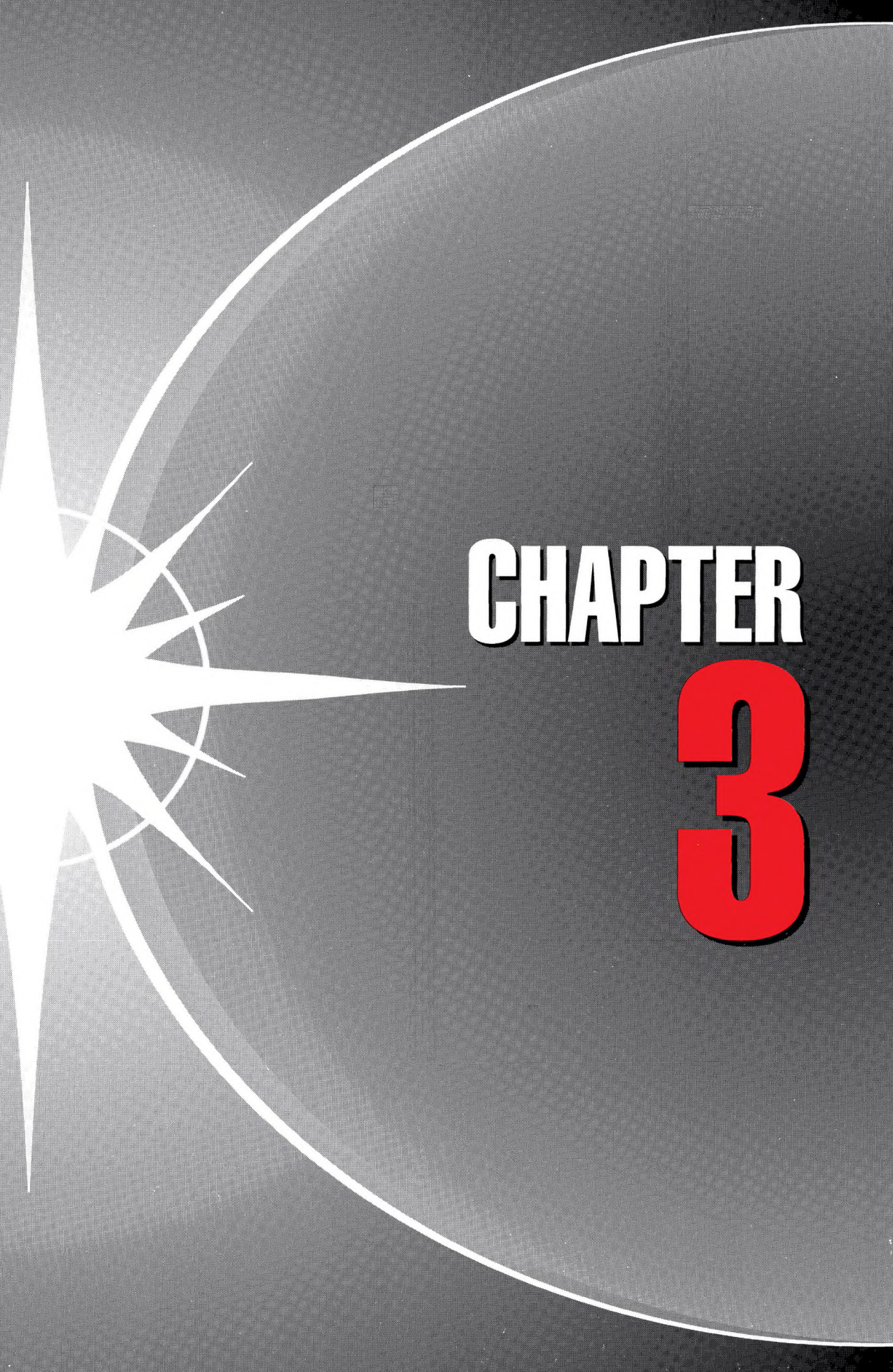
RICHARD BRUNING • ANDY KUBERT • ADAM KUBERT

ADAM STRANGE

BOOK
THREE



Andy Kubert



CHAPTER 3

RICHARD BRUNING

WRITER

ANDY KUBERT

ILLUSTRATOR

ADAM KUBERT

COLOR ARTIST

TODD KLEIN

LETTERER

ADAM STRANGE™

THE MAN OF TWO WORLDS

RICHARD BRUNING

& CURTIS KING

PUBLICATION DESIGN





YOU HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING I WAS MARRIED TO SARDATH? THINK HOW I FELT!

WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, SARDATH THOUGHT HE COULD SAVE THE WORLD.

THE GREAT DEVASTATION 1000 YEARS AGO WAS AN UGLY WAR... THE RADIATION POISONING SLOWLY DOING US ALL IN.

FEWER AND FEWER BABIES WERE BORN.

"SO SARDATH BUILT AN OPTIMUM GENETIC COMPUTER TO IMPARTIALLY MATCH THOSE MOST LIKELY TO REPRODUCE..."

"INVOLUNTARY MARRIAGE..."

"TO REASSURE THE POPULACE, HE VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF..."

"AND I WAS HIS CHOSEN MATE."

"WE HATED EACH OTHER..."

"AS HIS PLANS FAILED TO CURE OUR ILLS, HE BECAME A VERY BITTER... AND FRUSTRATED MAN."

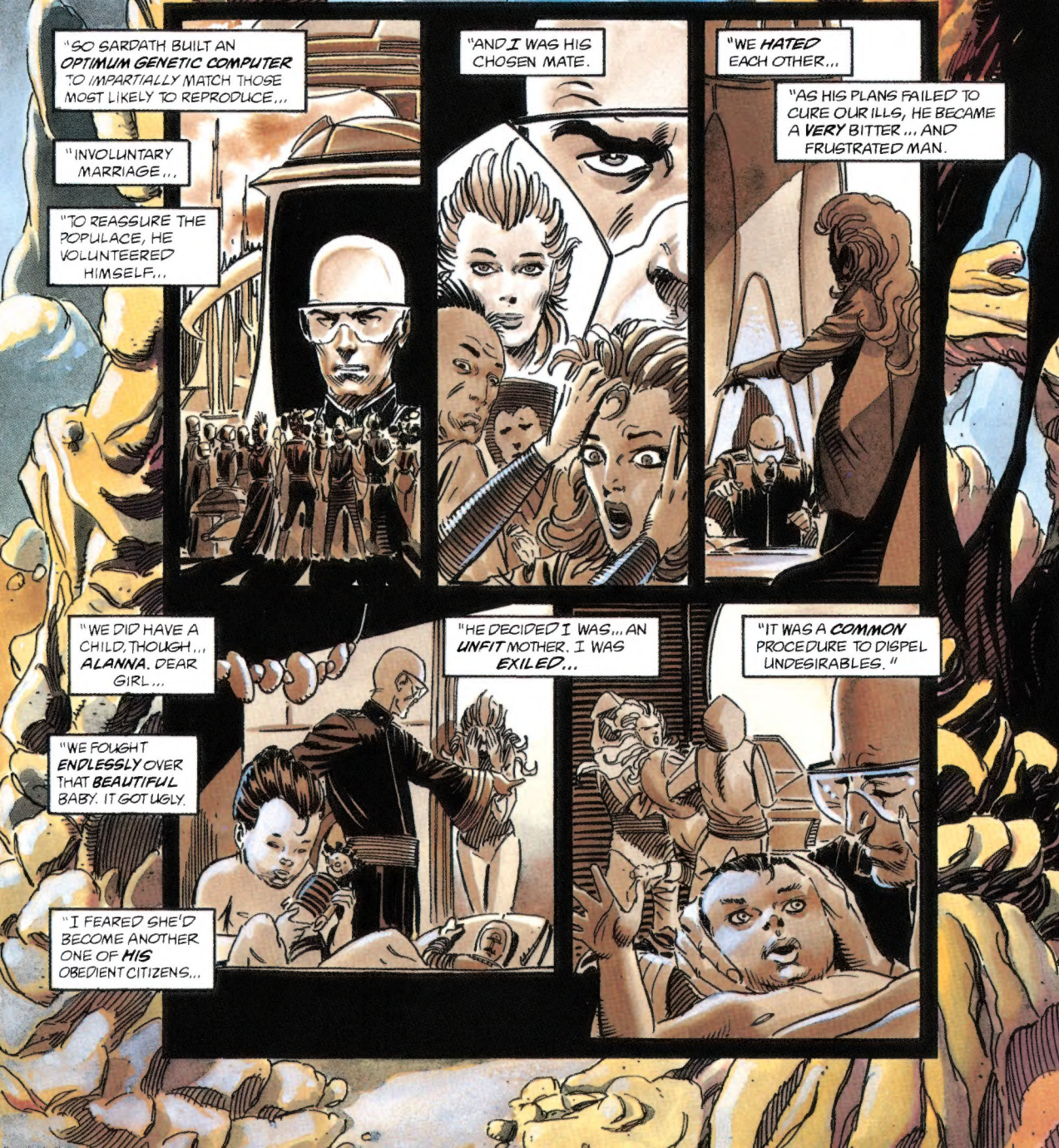
"WE DID HAVE A CHILD, THOUGH... ALANNA, DEAR GIRL..."

"HE DECIDED I WAS... AN UNFIT MOTHER. I WAS EXILED..."

"IT WAS A COMMON PROCEDURE TO DISPEL UNDESIRABLES."

"WE FOUGHT ENDLESSLY OVER THAT BEAUTIFUL BABY. IT GOT UGLY."

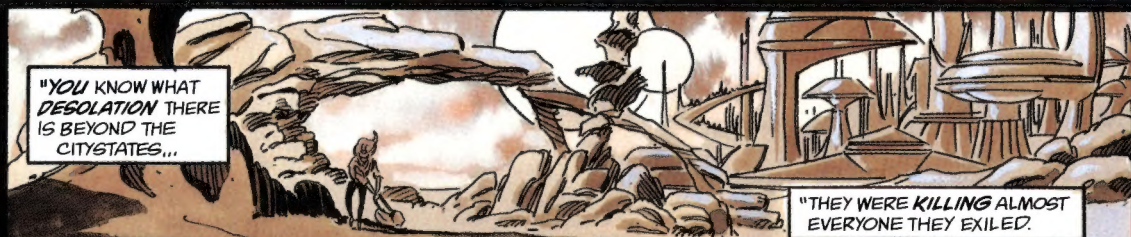
"I FEARED SHE'D BECOME ANOTHER ONE OF HIS OBEDIENT CITIZENS..."





IT KILLED
ME TO LOSE
HER...

BUT BY THEN,
HE HAD BECOME
THE MOST **POWERFUL**
MAN ON RANN.



"YOU KNOW WHAT
DESOLATION THERE
IS BEYOND THE
CITYSTATES..."

"THEY WERE **KILLING** ALMOST
EVERYONE THEY EXILED.



"SOMEHOW...
I MADE IT TO
THE **VALLEY**..."

"THERE I FOUND A GROUP
OF OTHERS LIKE ME. THEY
WERE BARELY SURVIVING..."



"LIFE IN RANAGAR HAD ALWAYS BEEN
SO EASY... AND **POINTLESS**. NOW, I
WAS FORCED TO WORK FOR A NEW
LIFE.



"I DON'T KNOW **WHAT**
DROVE ME... I ORGANIZED
AND WORKED HARD..."



"I FELT WE SHOULD LIVE AS
WELL AS WE COULD.
THERE WASN'T MUCH TO
WORK WITH, THOUGH..."

"MANY THERE WERE
EXILED FOR BEING
FOLLOWERS OF
JAAKAS HEART.

"IT WAS A **POWERFUL**
RELIGION LONG AGO...
UNTIL THE **TECHNOS**,
LIKE SARDATH,
OUTLAWED IT.

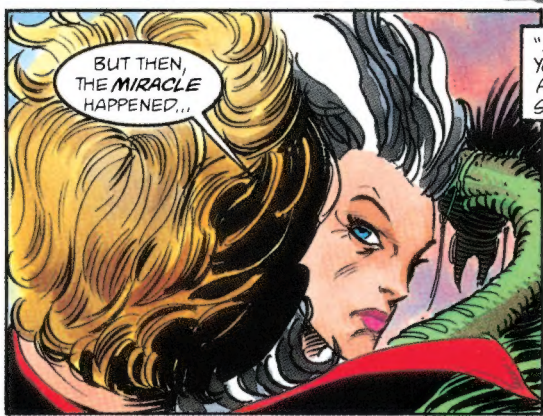
"THEY TAUGHT ME A
CERTAIN SENSE OF
PEACE AND STRENGTH...
EVEN THOUGH I WASN'T
A BELIEVER..."



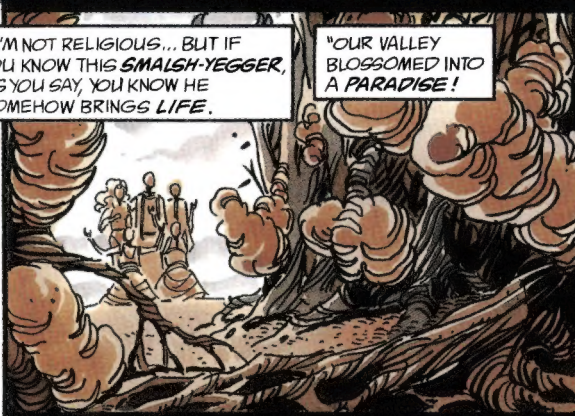
"IT WAS ROUGH... BUT AT LEAST I FELT PRODUCTIVE..."

"THE OFFICIAL STORY FROM RANAGAR WAS I'D DIED OF AN UNKNOWN ILLNESS."

"I ONLY MISSED ALANNA..."

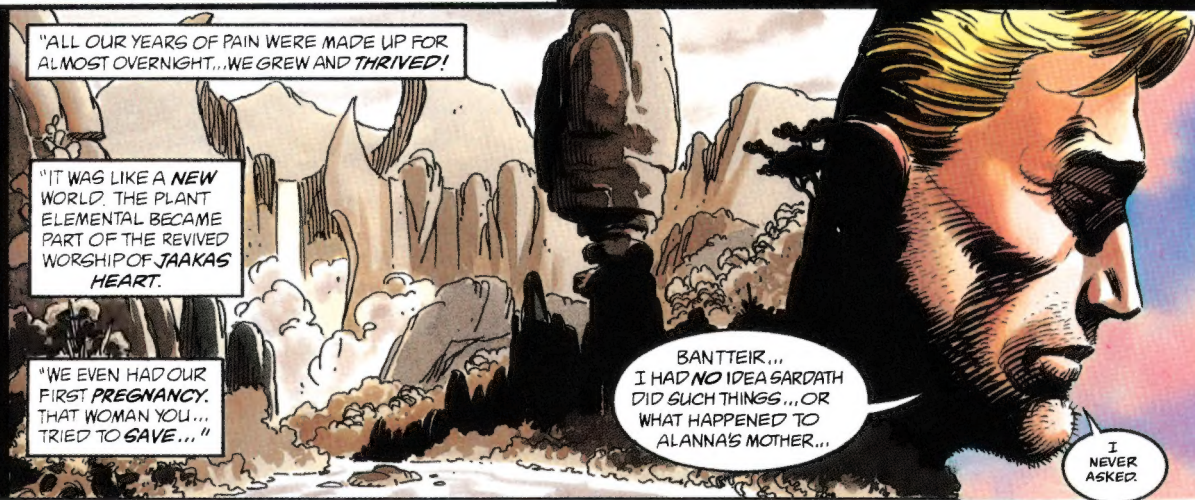


BUT THEN, THE MIRACLE HAPPENED...



"I'M NOT RELIGIOUS... BUT IF YOU KNOW THIS *SMAISH-YEGGER*, AS YOU SAY, YOU KNOW HE SOMEHOW BRINGS LIFE."

"OUR VALLEY BLOSSOMED INTO A PARADISE!"



"ALL OUR YEARS OF PAIN WERE MADE UP FOR ALMOST OVERNIGHT... WE GREW AND THRIVED!"

"IT WAS LIKE A NEW WORLD. THE PLANT ELEMENTAL BECAME PART OF THE REVIVED WORSHIP OF JAAKAS HEART."

"WE EVEN HAD OUR FIRST PREGNANCY. THAT WOMAN YOU... TRIED TO SAVE..."

BANTTEIR... I HAD NO IDEA SARDATH DID SUCH THINGS... OR WHAT HAPPENED TO ALANNA'S MOTHER...

I NEVER ASKED

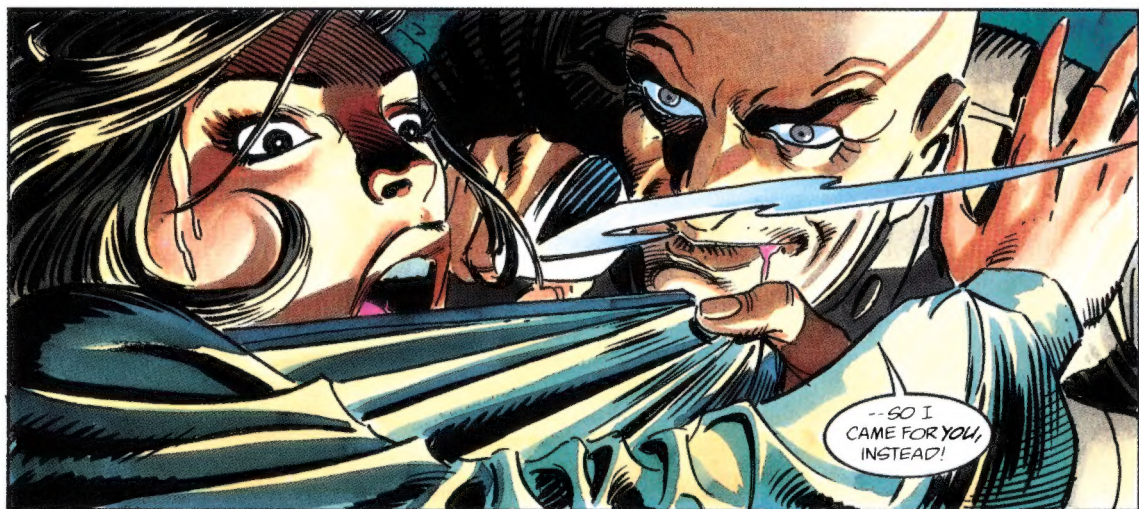


HE'D ALWAYS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME...

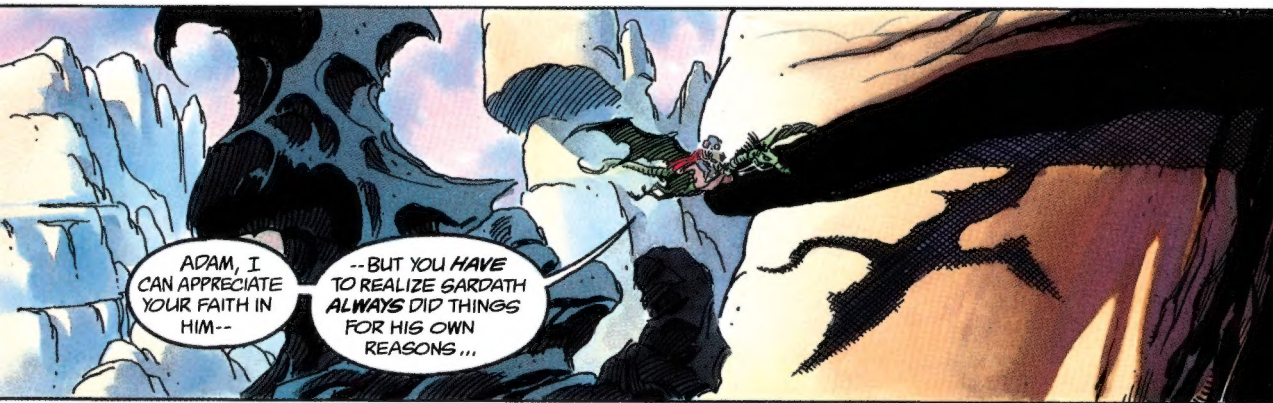
YOU BROUGHT LIFE TO RANN, DID YOU NOT?



ADAM... HE'D DO ANYTHING TO REPOPULATE THIS PLANET...







ADAM, I
CAN APPRECIATE
YOUR FAITH IN
HIM--

--BUT YOU **HAVE**
TO REALIZE SARDATH
ALWAYS DID THINGS
FOR HIS OWN
REASONS ...



I MEAN, DIDN'T YOU EVER
THINK IT SUSPICIOUS THAT A
COMMUNICATIONS BEAM
COULD TRANSPORT A PERSON
ACROSS THE ...

BANTEIR ...



...THAT'S
RANAGAR!!



GET THIS
MONSTER
DOWN!





YOU SEE, THE OTHER COUNCILLOR AND I *THOUGHT* SHORTING OUT GARDATH'S MEDUNIT WOULD KILL HIM.

DIDN'T. WOKE HIM UP THOUGH...

HE WAS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL! I RAN WHILE HE WAS ATTACKING THE OTHER. FIGURED *YOU'D* BE AN EASIER TARGET...



SO. THERE'S REALLY A LIVING CREATURE GROWING INSIDE YOU?

THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE... FOR ME AT LEAST.

I MEAN, YOUR FATHER MADE THE COUNCIL...



CLONED US FROM HIS OWN CELLS...

HE TOLD US WE SHOULD BE HONORED...

BUT HE'S NOT MY FATHER... AND I HAVE NO MOTHER...



SO I SAY, NO MORE MOTHERS... OR FATHERS...



...AND DEFINITELY NO MORE BABIES!

OH... PLEASE... STOP...



ABSOLUTELY NO MORE BA--!

GAAA...



HEY! NOT A BAD SHOT--





GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR DELIVERY, PROGENY. THESE FOLKS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE OF MORE HELP TO YOU.

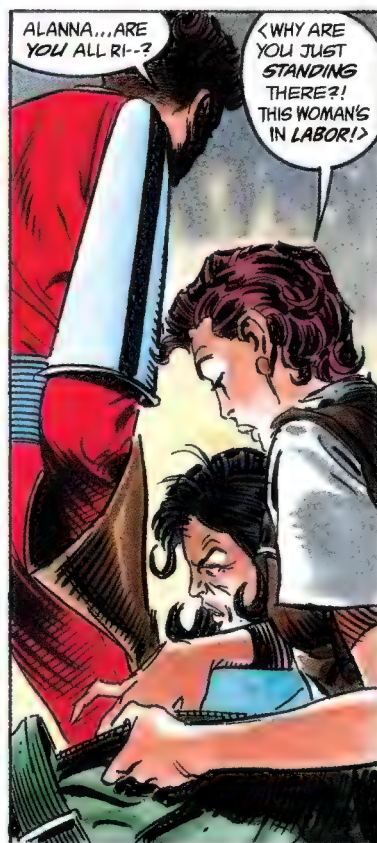
BESIDES, I REALLY MUST BE OFF.



I...WE... ALANNA, WAS THAT SARDATH?

UH...THIS WOMAN'S FROM EARTH...SHE...

WAIT... THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN...



ALANNA...ARE YOU ALL RI--?

<WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?! THIS WOMAN'S IN LABOR!>



YES, DELAKEN, THAT WAS MY FATHER. PLEASE... BRING HIM BACK!

<JUST RELAX, DEAR. WE'LL GET YOU INTO BED I'M A DOCTOR...>



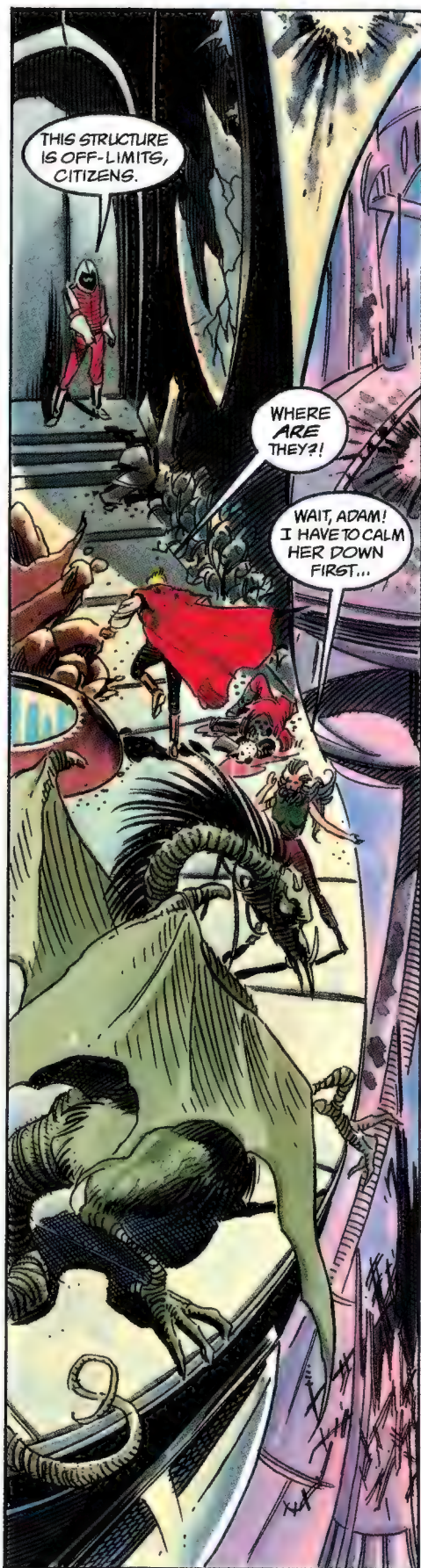
OOH!...YOU TALK... UHH, LIKE ADAM! <ARE YOU FROM EARTH?!

<EARTH?? YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?! WHERE ARE WE?! DO YOU KNOW ADAM??>



OOH!... UH...<THIS IS RANN.>

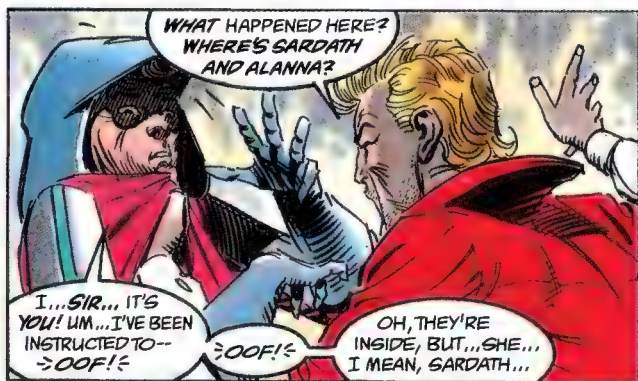
<ADAM... OOH!... NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT YOU...>



THIS STRUCTURE IS OFF-LIMITS, CITIZENS.

WHERE ARE THEY?!

WAIT, ADAM! I HAVE TO CALM HER DOWN FIRST...



WHAT HAPPENED HERE? WHERE'S SARDATH AND ALANNA?

I...SIR... IT'S YOU! UM... I'VE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO--

OOF! OOF! OOF!

OH, THEY'RE INSIDE, BUT... SHE... I MEAN, SARDATH...



OUT OF MY WAY!



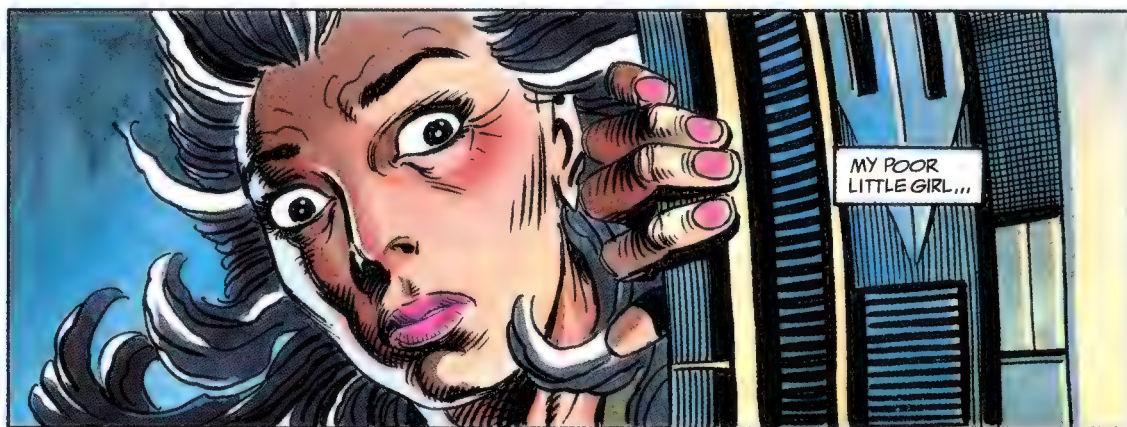
ALANNA!

EVE?!



<ADAM! THANK GOD!>





MY POOR
LITTLE GIRL...



I THOUGHT MY HEART
COULD STAND SEEING
YOU AGAIN...

HELLO
THERE.

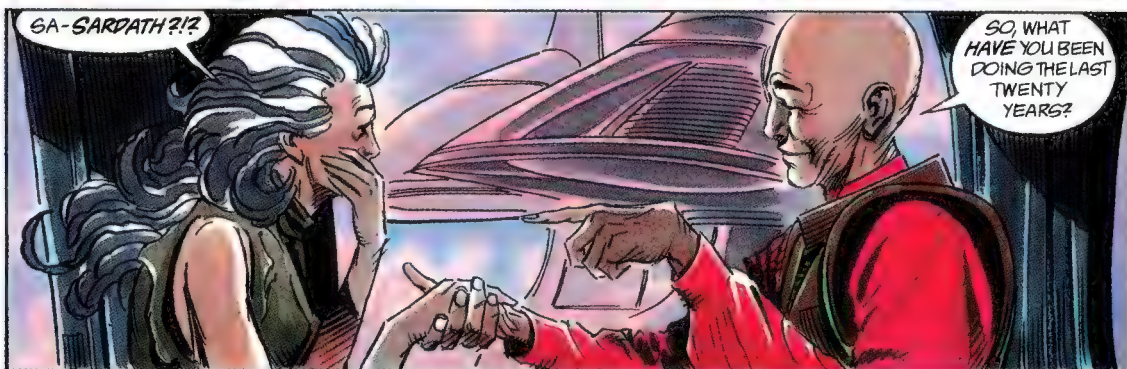


WELL,
WELL,
WELL...

AREN'T YOU A
SIGHT FOR SORE...
UM... UH... EYE.

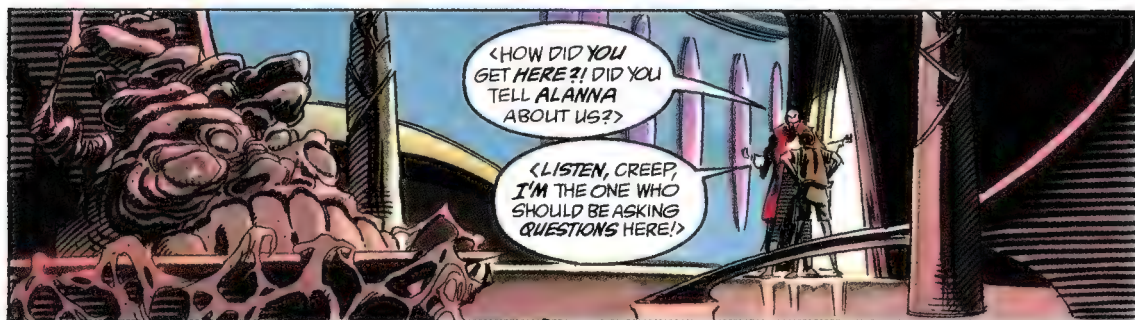


JUST BACK
OFF AND LEAVE ME
ALONE, WHOEVER
YOU ARE. I...
WAIT...



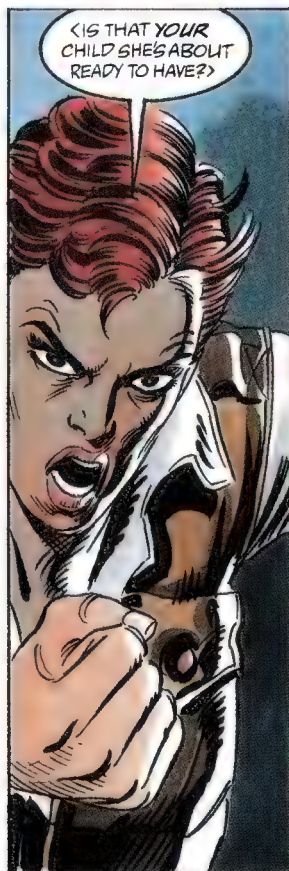
GA-SARDATH?!!

SO, WHAT
HAVE YOU BEEN
DOING THE LAST
TWENTY
YEARS?



<HOW DID YOU
GET HERE?! DID YOU
TELL ALANNA
ABOUT US?>

<LISTEN, CREEP,
I'M THE ONE WHO
SHOULD BE ASKING
QUESTIONS HERE!>



<IS THAT YOUR
CHILD SHE'S ABOUT
READY TO HAVE?>



<I...UH,
YES.>

<EVELYN, IT WAS
MY LAST TIME ON EARTH.
I WAS SAYING GOODBYE
FOREVER TO A LOT
OF THINGS...>



<LIKE CHEATING
ON YOUR WIFE?!
GOOD FOR
YOU!>

<YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
I WAS-->



<LOOK. FORGET
IT. I'LL HELP... ALANNA,
IS IT? NICE
NAME.>

<I'LL DO
WHATEVER I CAN.
SHE'S LUCKY I'VE
STILL GOT MY
BAG.>

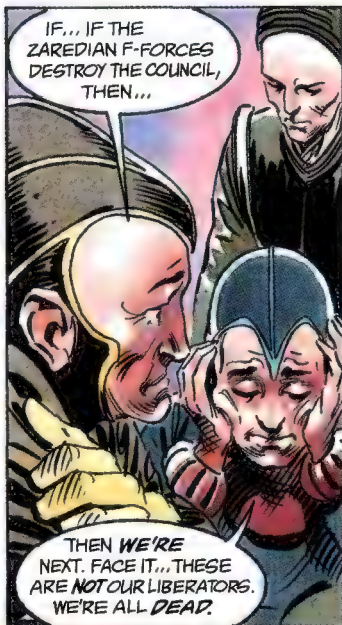


<THANK
YOU.>

<HEY... WAIT! HOW
DID YOU GET
HERE?>

<ADAM, YOU'VE
GOT A LOT MORE
IMPORTANT THINGS
TO WORRY ABOUT
NOW... LIKE YOUR
WIFE AND BABY...>



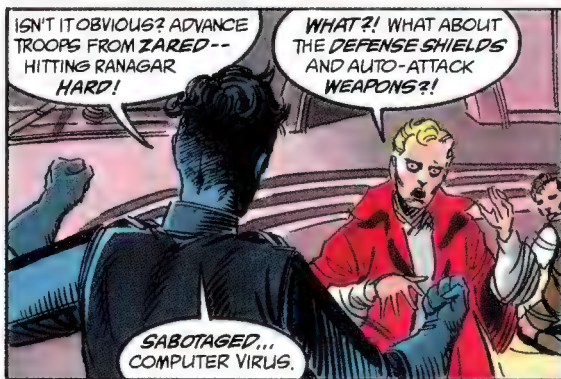




ALANNA, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE SAR--

OH, YOU'RE BACK. HURRAY.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, DELAKEN?!



ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? ADVANCE TROOPS FROM ZARED-- HITTING RANAGAR HARD!

WHAT?! WHAT ABOUT THE DEFENSE SHIELDS AND AUTO-ATTACK WEAPONS?!

SABOTAGED... COMPUTER VIRUS.



IT'S BAD, STRANGE. THE COUNCIL'S ASSASSINATING ITSELF ONE BY ONE, AND SARDATH'S COMPLETELY OUT OF IT.

SAYS WHO?



SARDATH!! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!

WHAT? DON'T YOU LIKE MY NEW GLASSES?

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WENT AND PUT MY EYE OUT.

NO HARD FEELINGS, OF COURSE... I HAD IT COMING!



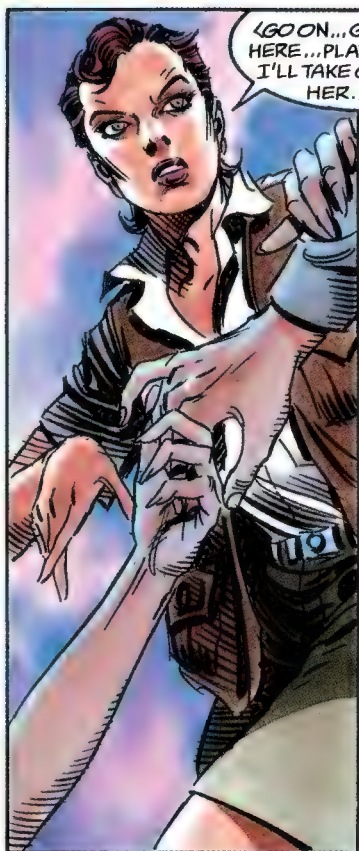
SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH HIS MED UNIT.

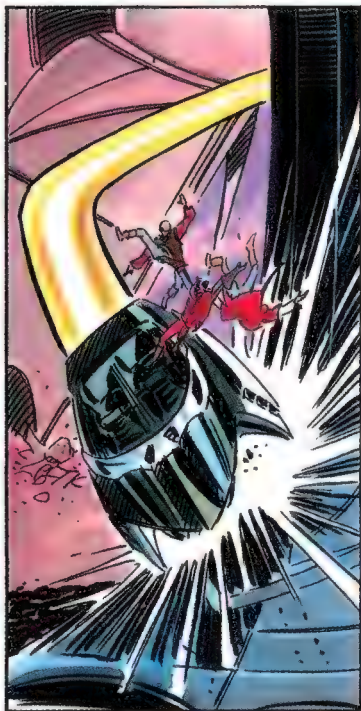
LISTEN, STRANGE... MAYBE YOU CAN GET THE CITY'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS GOING AGAIN!



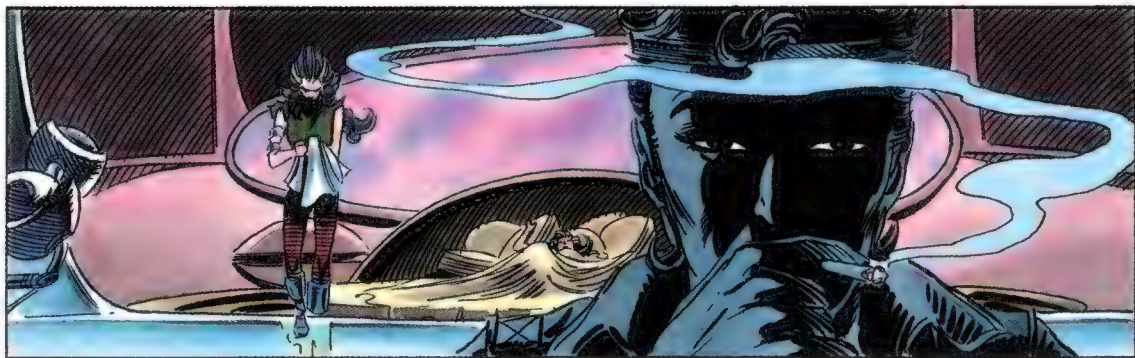
COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO TRY, AT LEAST!

YES! GO AHEAD, SONNY-BOY... YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS ALL THE FUN!









SHOULD WE WAKE HER?

NAH. SHE'S LUCKY SHE PASSED OUT FROM THE PAIN. SHE'LL WAKE UP WHEN THE NEXT CONTRACTION HITS.



YOU CAN TAKE THAT OFF NOW. IT'S ALREADY TAUGHT YOU OUR LANGUAGE.

LOOK, BANTEIR, I DON'T KNOW HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO THIS WOMAN ALANNA...



...BUT... SHE'S NOT GOING TO--

DON'T SAY IT!

SHE'S STRONG! SHE'LL MAKE IT!

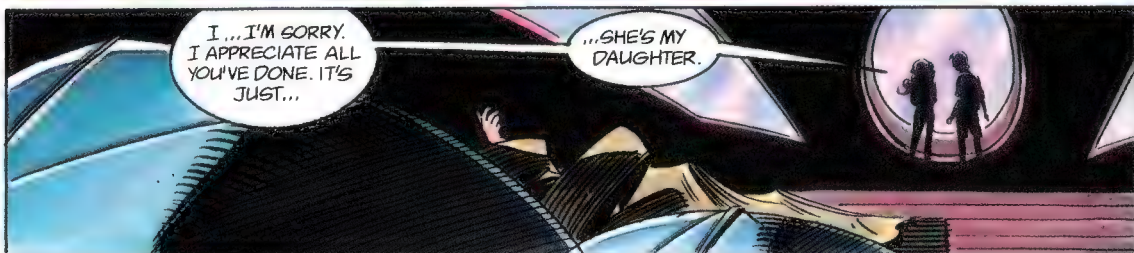
WHY CAN'T YOU SAVE HER?!



WELL, I'M SORRY I'M NOT AS INFALLIBLE AS THESE WONDERFUL MACHINES OF YOURS WERE...

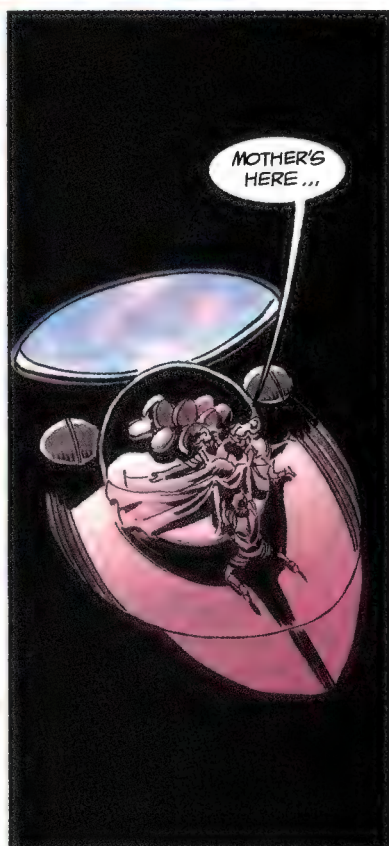
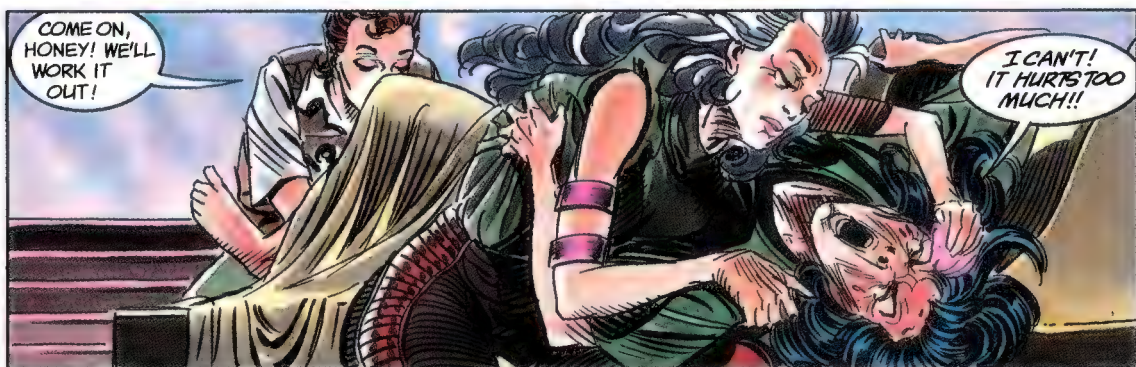
... BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO WORK ANYMORE!

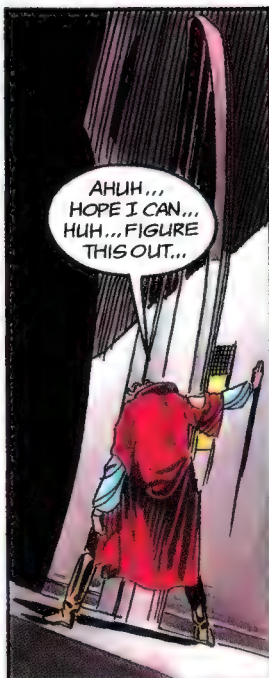
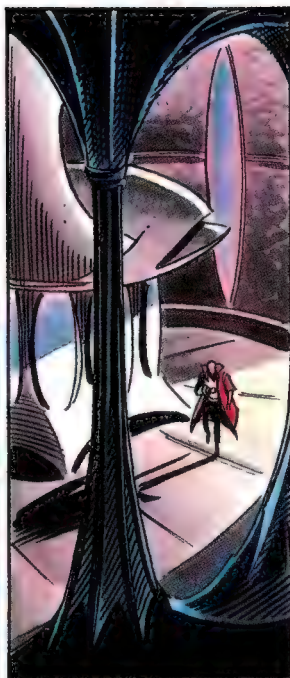
SO YOU'RE STUCK WITH INFERIOR HUMAN ME, OKAY?!



I... I'M SORRY. I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE. IT'S JUST...

...SHE'S MY DAUGHTER.





AH...
HOPE I CAN...
HUH... FIGURE
THIS OUT...



IF ONLY
SARDATH
WERE--!



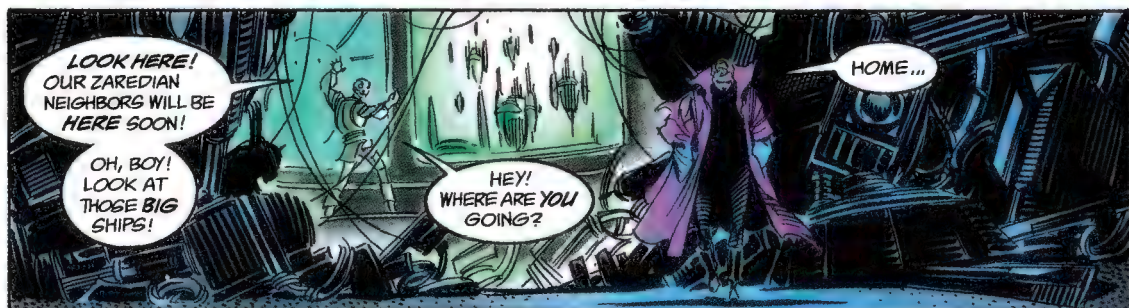
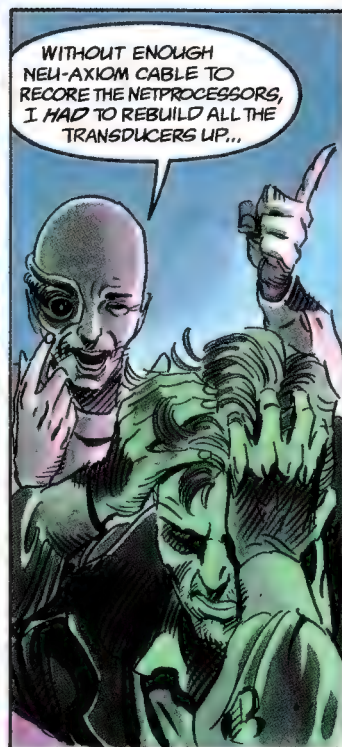
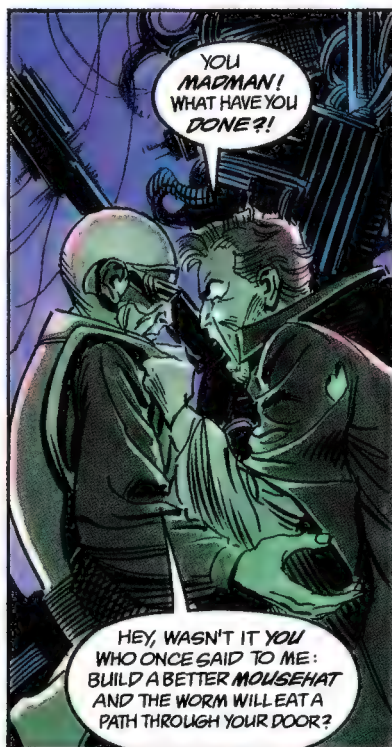
OH...
MAN...!

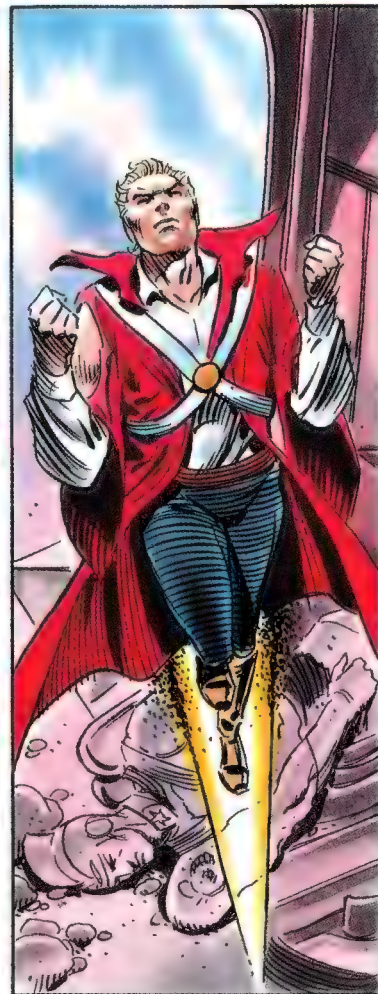
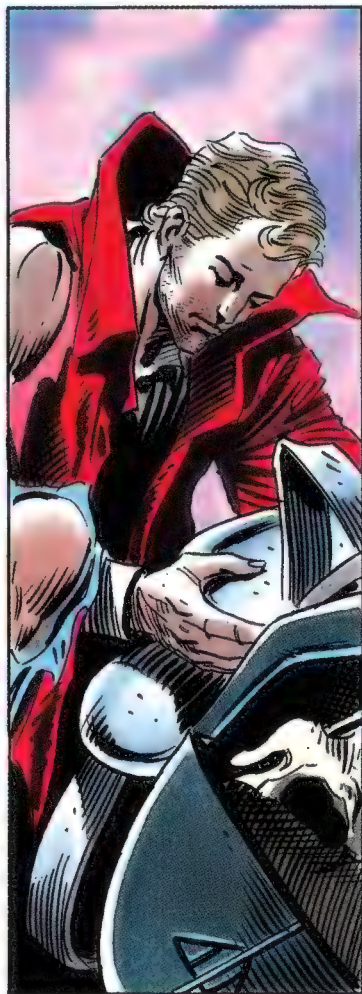
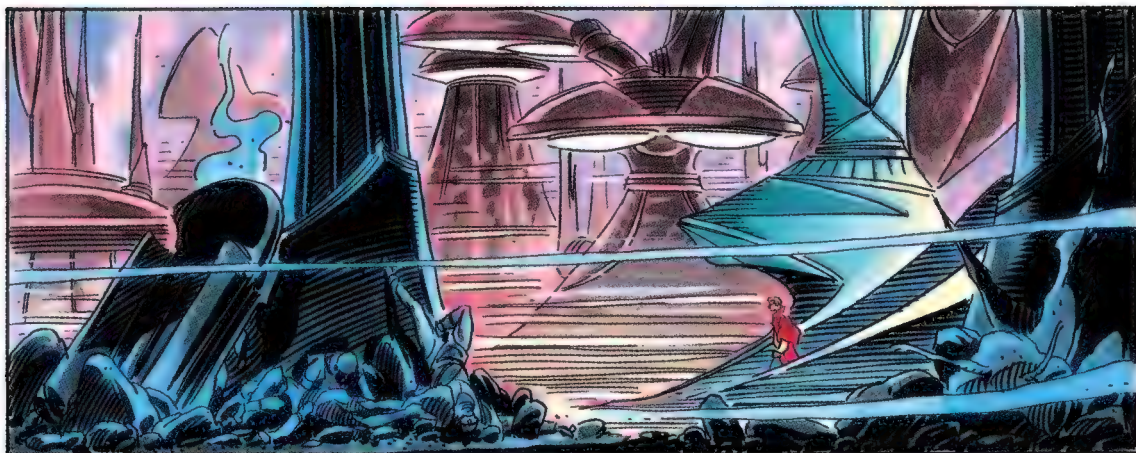


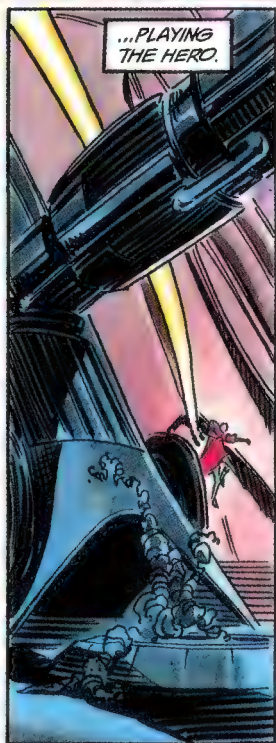
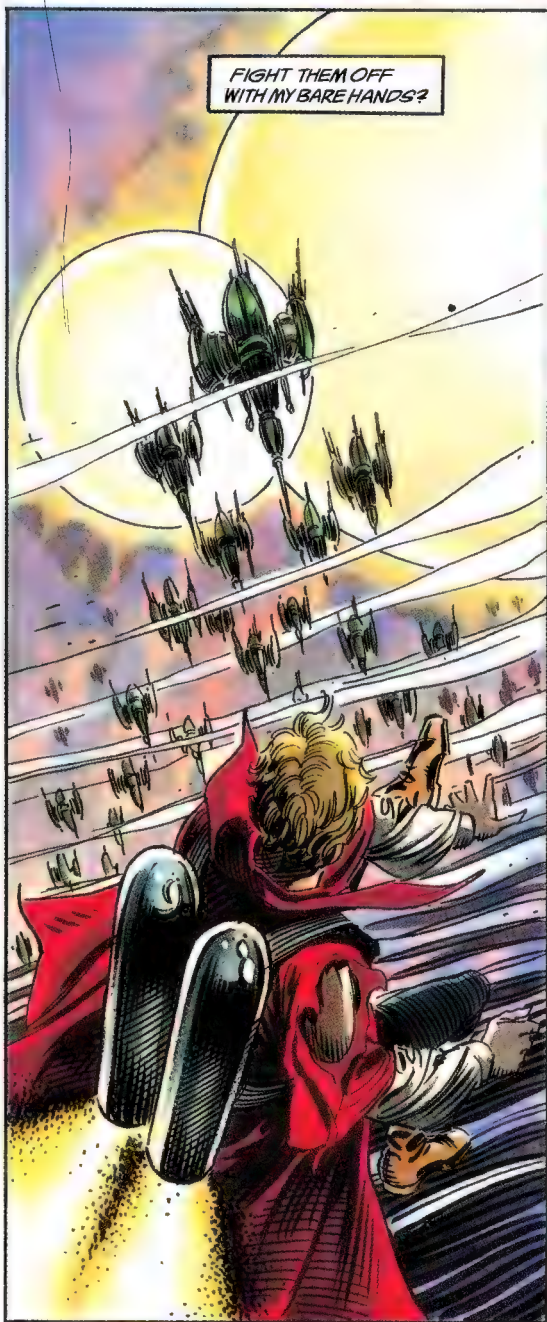
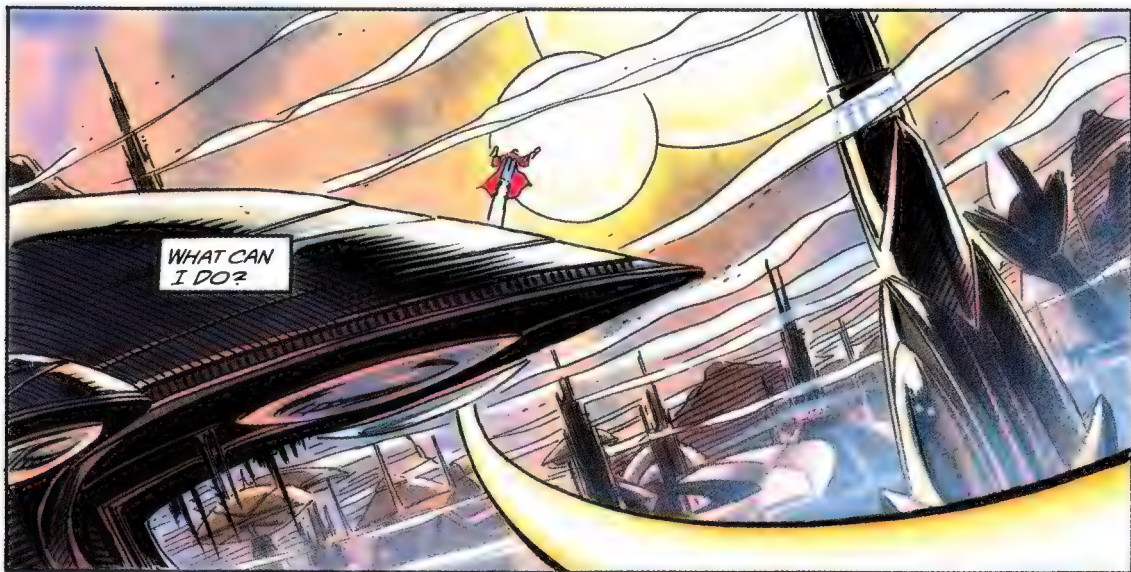
THE OLD
SYSTEM WAS HOPELESS,
SO I DID A LITTLE
REWIRING.

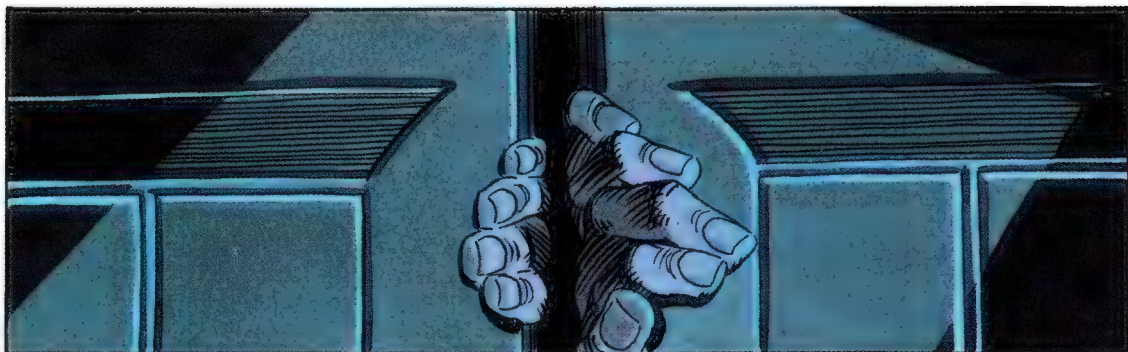
YOU
LIKE?

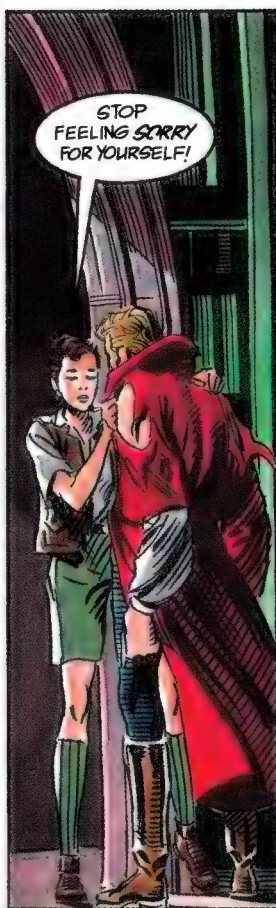
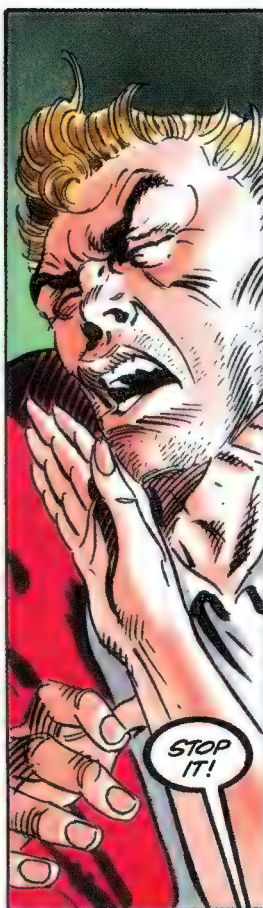
DON'T TELL
ME... YOU WERE
GOING TO TRY THE
SAME THING!

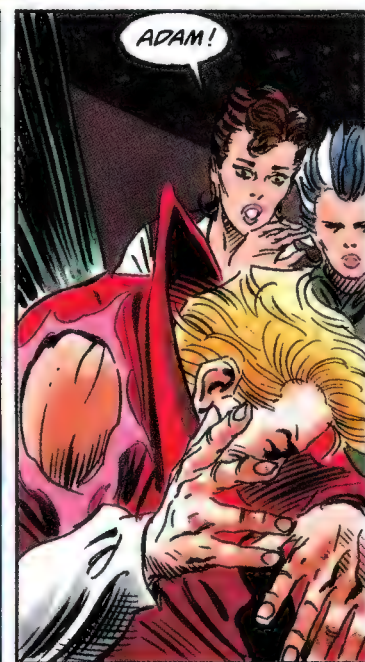
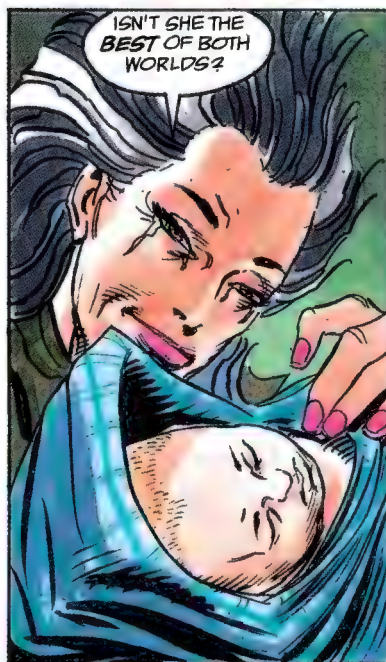
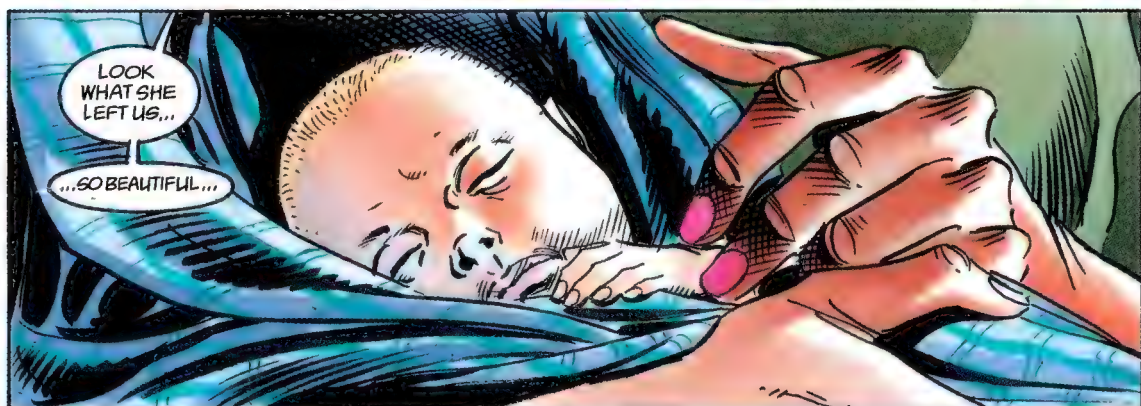


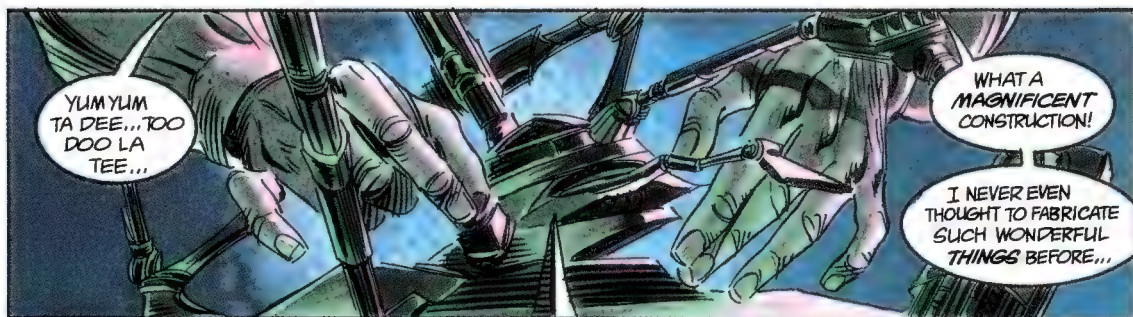












YUM YUM
TA DEE...TOO
DOO LA
TEE...

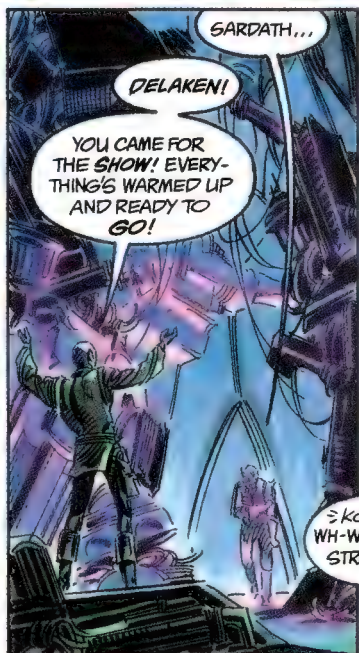
WHAT A
MAGNIFICENT
CONSTRUCTION!

I NEVER EVEN
THOUGHT TO FABRICATE
SUCH WONDERFUL
THINGS BEFORE...



NOW... DOES IT
HAVE A
PURPOSE?

OR... DOES
IT NEED A
PURPOSE?



SARDATH...

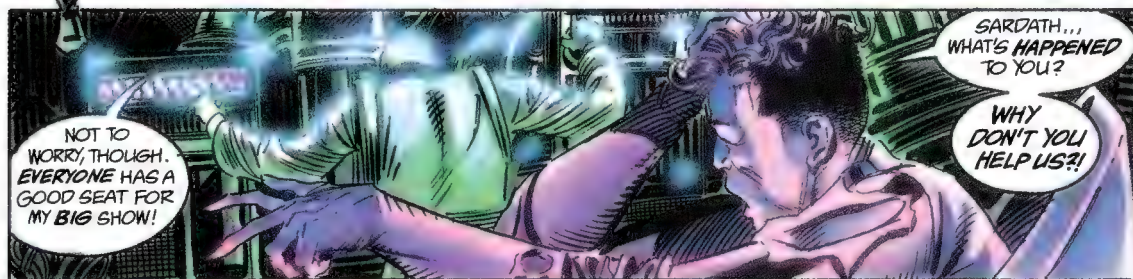
DELAKE!

YOU CAME FOR
THE SHOW! EVERY-
THING'S WARMED UP
AND READY TO
GO!



COME
AND GONE.
NERVOUS
TYPE.

~koff~
WH-WHERE'S
STRANGE?



NOT TO
WORRY, THOUGH.
EVERYONE HAS A
GOOD SEAT FOR
MY BIG SHOW!

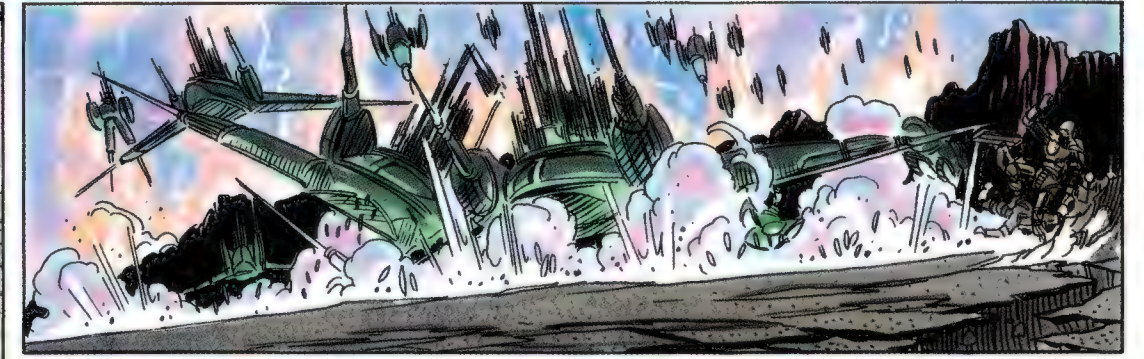
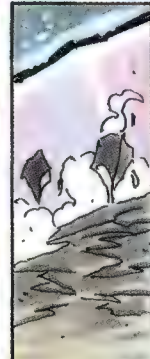
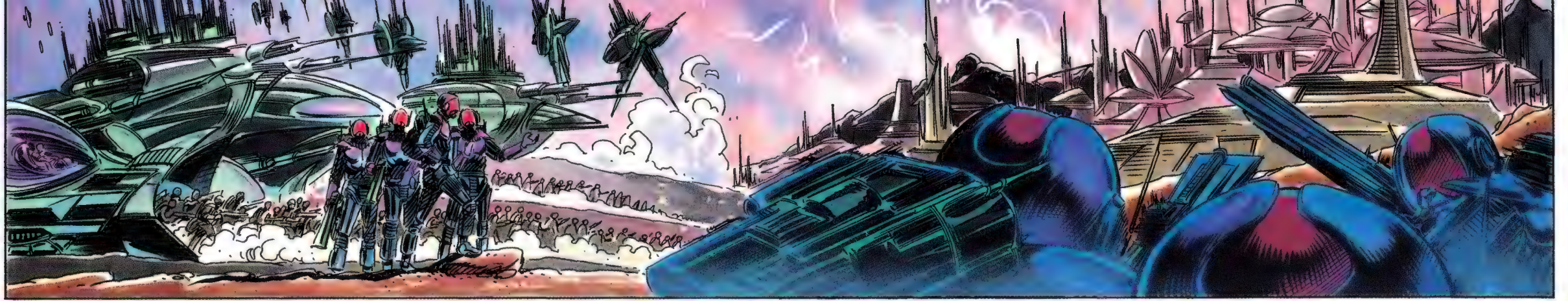
SARDATH...
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO YOU?

WHY
DON'T YOU
HELP US?!



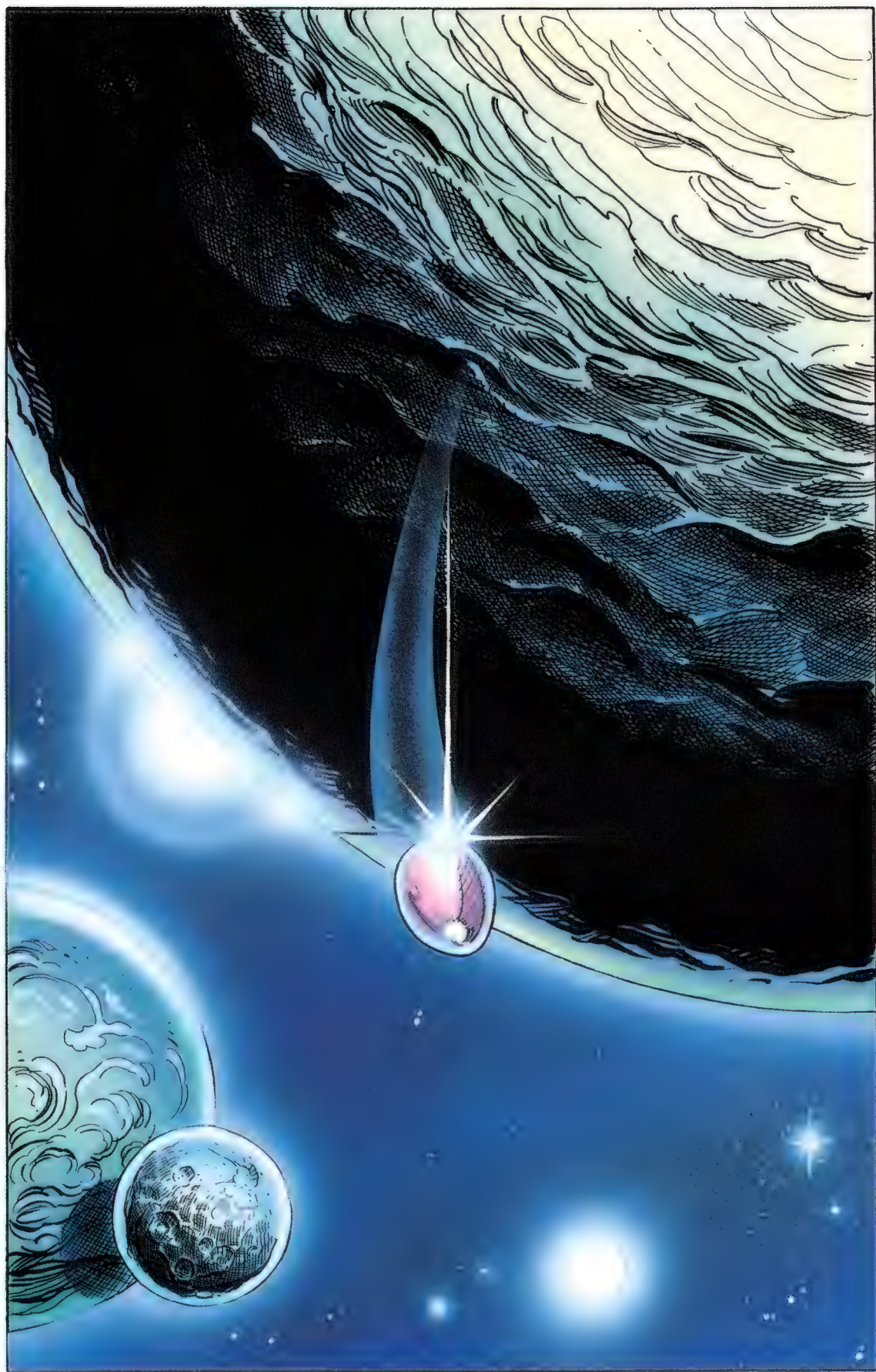
HELP?
HELP! DEAR
FELLOW...

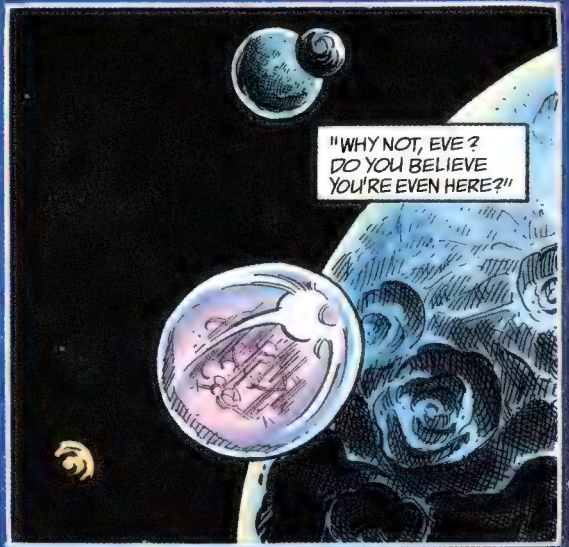
...I'M
SETTING MY
PEOPLE
FREE!

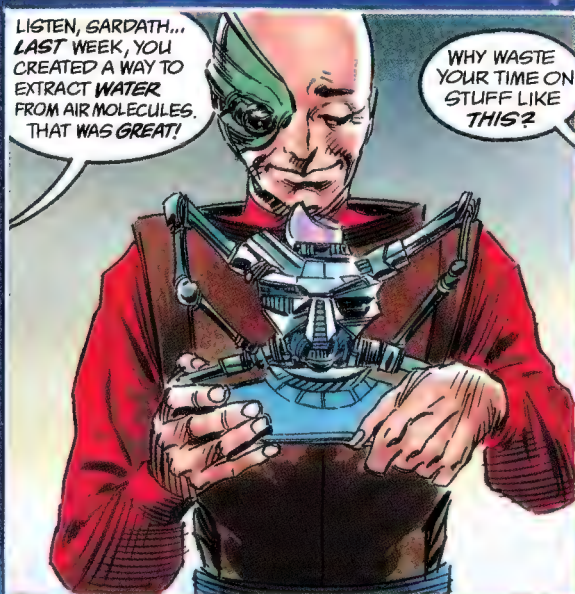
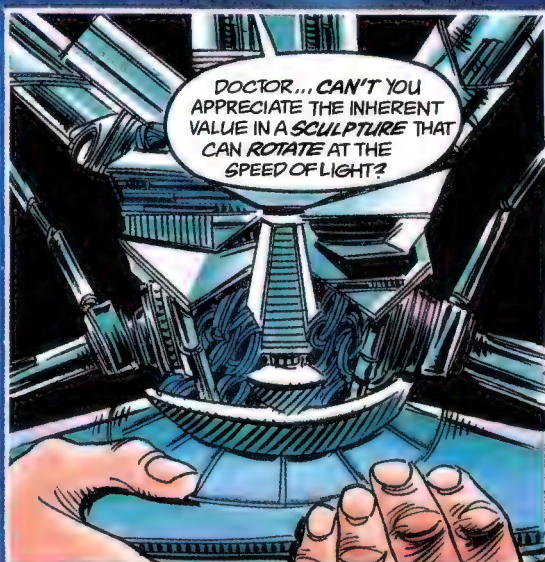
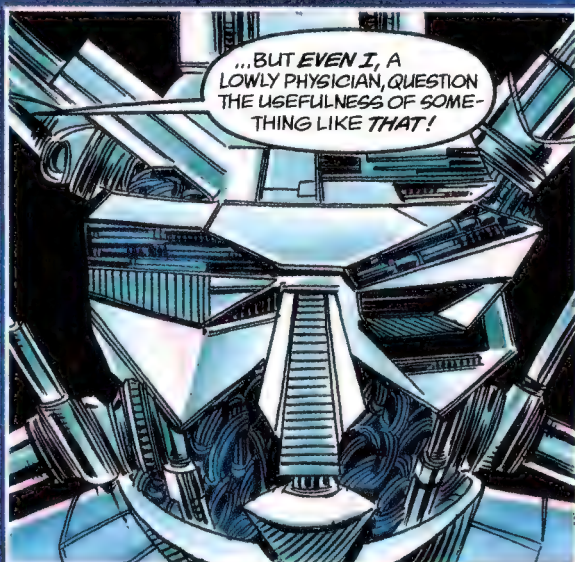
















I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I'D FIND YOU HERE!

OOPSIE!

I'VE TALKED TO YOU ABOUT THIS BEFORE! WHY DO YOU KEEP RUNNING AWAY?

WE NEED TO REPROGRAM WHAT CITY SERVICES WE HAVE LEFT!



YEE! FORGOT 'BOUT THAT! DEL, CAN I BORROW YOUR ROCKETPAK? I'M A VERY GOOD FLIER...

YES... I KNOW! COME ON LET'S JUST GO. WE'VE BOTH GOT A LOT TO DO.



OH, BEFORE I GO, DOCTOR... BE A DEAR AND CHECK ON WHAT'S-HIS-NAME, WILL YOU? HE'S NOT BEEN HIMSELF LATELY.

HEH... WHO HAS?

I WAS PLANNING ON IT, SIR.



DON'T FORGET, DOC, TONIGHT'S THE MEETING TO FINALIZE THE NEW GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. WE'VE GOT TO DECIDE SOON, OR--

I KNOW... POST-WAR PROGRAMS DON'T LAST FOREVER.

BUT YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE USING ME AS AN EXPERT ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT!



DAMN IT, SPOCK... I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A POLITICIAN!

HA! GET IT?

SORRY... OLD JOKE... FROM FAR AWAY...



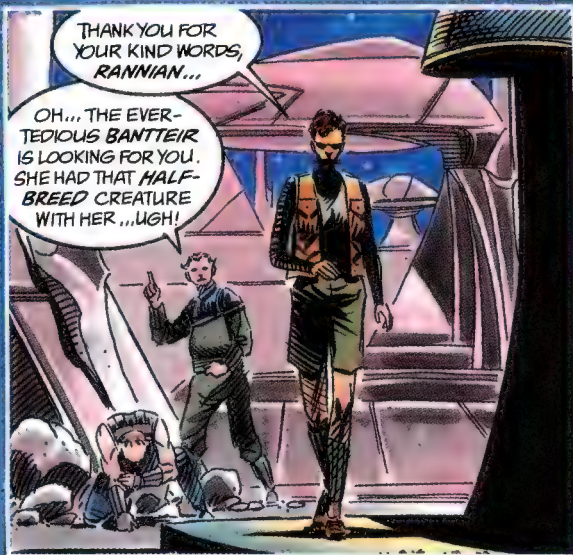
YOUR BACKWARD IDEA OF GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEM TO MATCH THAT DESCRIPTION.

TOUCHE.

LATER, DOCTOR.

GET UP, YOU WORTHLESS, CRAWLING ZARHEAD!







FOR A
HEALER, YOU
DON'T HAVE MUCH
FAITH.

TELL HIM ABOUT
THE MEETING TONIGHT.
HE REALLY SHOULD
BE THERE.

EVEN
IF HE IS AN
ALIEN?



SHUSH. TAKE
PRECIOUS...



SORRY...
I JUST RAN
INTO KRENT.

AH HA.
NO WONDER
YOU'RE SO...
= AHM =



WELL, DEAR... YOU AND ADAM
ARE NOT GETTING OUT OF HELPING
US MAKE THIS PLACE WORK!
SO THERE.

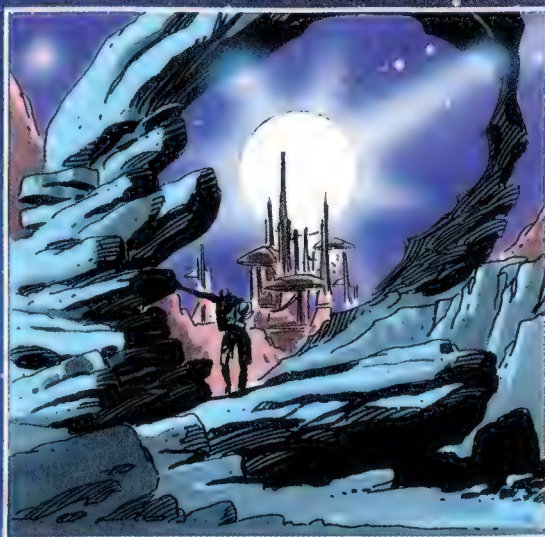


NOW, HURRY!
YOU DON'T WANT
TO BE LATE!

IT'LL BE
HARD ENOUGH
TO GET EVERYONE'S
ATTENTION ON
ONE TOPIC!



AND BESIDES...
YOU KNOW HOW VIOLENT
RANAGARIANS GET IF YOU
KEEP THEM WAITING...
HAHA!







YOU THINK YOUR BROTHER WAS A **HERO** FOR RUNNING AWAY AND YOUR SISTER A **FOOL** FOR STAYING, DON'T YOU?

WELL, LISTEN, STRANGE-- YOU GOT THAT ALL **BACKWARDS!**

YOU WANT TO BE THE **HERO**, YOU **TOUGH** THIS OUT!



SURE, IT'S HELL THAT **SHE'S** GONE ...



...BUT YOU HAVE A **FATHER-IN-LAW** WHO NEEDS YOU MORE THAN EVER--

--AND A WHOLE LOT OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS BACK **THERE** WHO COULD USE YOUR HELP!



I'M LONELY... SO FAR FROM HOME...

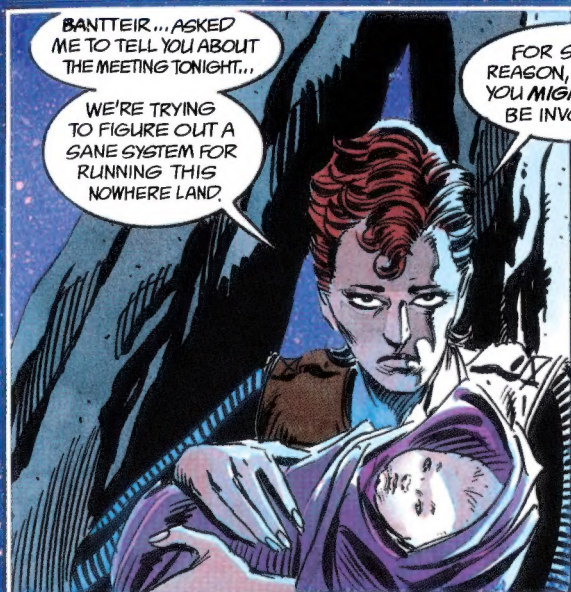
INCLUDING ME!

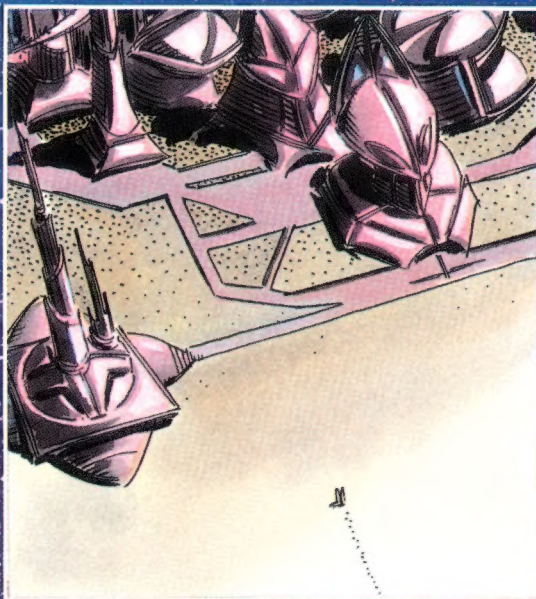
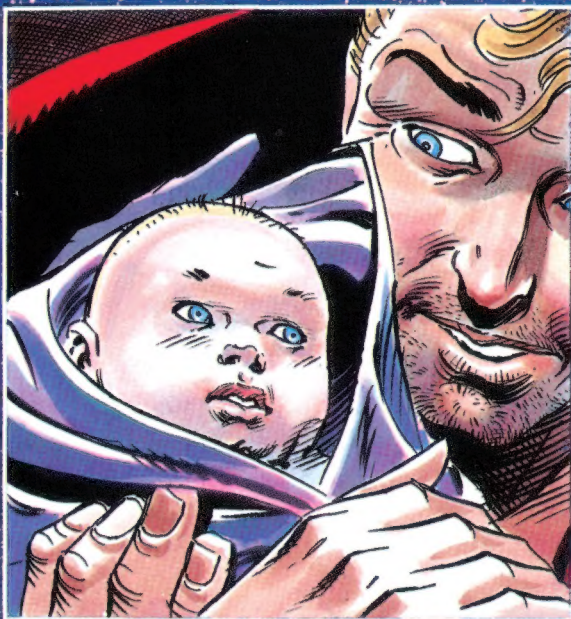


AT LEAST YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE...

...YOU'RE KIND OF ALL **WE'VE** GOT HERE.





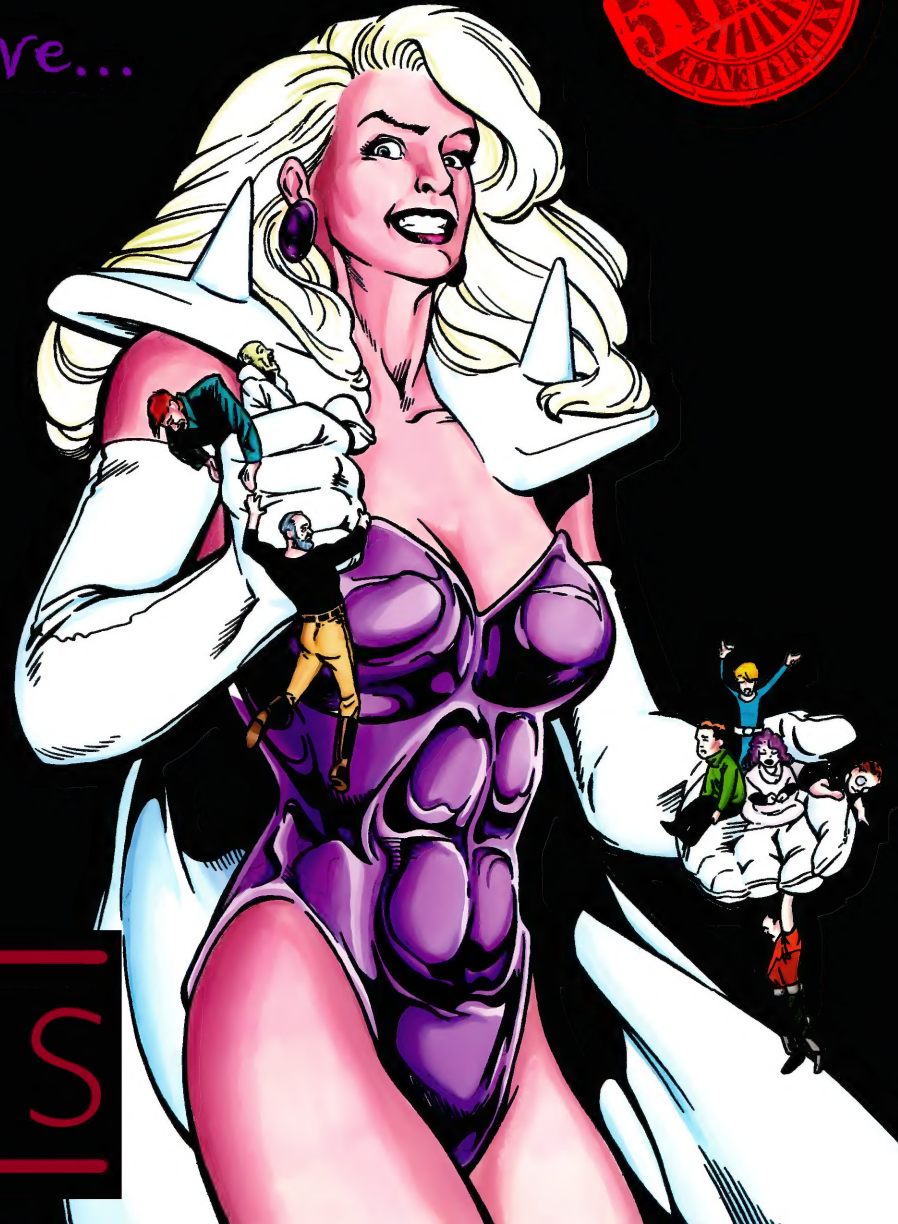




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DEDICATED TO THE CREATIVE EFFORTS OF GARDNER FOX, CARMINE INFANTINO,
MIKE SEKOWSKY, MURPHY ANDERSON AND JULIUS SCHWARTZ

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

NOVUS